

Montana Post * Volume 42, Number 3 * Autumn 2004

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From the Director

Arnie Olsen

The Society's museum exhibits have entertained thousands over the years. We still have people asking about Territorial Junction, the Towe antique car display, the dioramas, and other favorites from years gone by. Now we are getting questions about the F. Jay Haynes exhibit, which occupied the southeast gallery for more than sixteen years before being removed last spring.

Long-term exhibits like our current *Montana Homeland* become popular because they tell important stories in ways that draw people into the adventure of history. Temporary exhibits are important and allow us to present more of our tremendous collections, but we relish the chance to tell a big story in a big way.

That's why we are transforming the southeast gallery into an adventure land that will tell the story of one of the epic events in the history of our nation. In 2005 we will unveil *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark*, which will focus on the Indian tribes and animal and plant communities that lived in Montana at the time of the expedition.

To create this exhibit, our museum team is working with a Native American Advisory Panel, which has representatives from all of Montana's tribes and reservations. Our goal is to tell the story of Montana at the time of the Corps of Discovery from the perspectives of two divergent groups that are still striving to understand each other's history. We are indebted to the nearly fifty tribal members who have come together to share their knowledge and inspiration.

The new exhibit will present a world of natural wonder that will give visitors a feeling of being with the Corps as they encountered a new landscape and some people who helped them along their way.

One of the features will be a walk-through area that will give visitors the sense of climbing down into the Missouri River canyons that extended from what is now the North Dakota border to Fort Benton. It will show how the Corps slogged up river and why their journals report no contact with Native Americans who were on the plains above them.

Another section will illustrate what is called a "buffalo pound." Native Americans used these herding traps to hunt buffalo and other game much more frequently than they did pishkins or buffalo jumps. Yet, many people are not aware of them.

While we will draw heavily on our rich Native American collection for period Native American clothing and other materials, we are also working with our advisory committee to

recreate “working clothes.” Unlike more finely decorated outfits, everyday clothing rarely survived to be collected as artifacts.

The exhibit also will feature one of the memorable wildlife mounts from the Bob Scriver Museum in Browning: a large grizzly bear on its hind legs in an attack position. Other wildlife mounts from the Society’s Scriver collection also will be in the exhibit.

Obviously, major exhibits are more expensive and take longer to build than short term exhibits. In 1988 the 9,500-square-foot Montana Homeland exhibit cost about \$300,000, and fourteen temporary workers were hired to help the staff during the two years of the construction phase. In contrast, *Neither Empty or Unknown* will be 5,000 square feet, but, due to financial constraints, we are primarily relying on existing staff for the construction.

Fundraising for this exciting Lewis and Clark exhibit continues, and there are still opportunities for individuals and businesses to contribute money and materials. For example, we are working on an interactive audio system to guide people through the exhibit that will add another aspect to the visitor experience. We also are looking for sponsors to help us contract with artists to paint mural backdrops and reproduce specific environments that will help create the feeling of Montana’s vast landscapes.

All donors will be appropriately acknowledged near the exhibit entrance, which will demonstrate the broad partnerships important to making an exhibit of this scale successful.

Please contact us at 406-444-1799 or e-mail gashmore@state.mt.us if you want to get involved or want more information on specific sponsoring or gifting opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you at the exhibit opening next year!

Whitefish Site of Montana History Conference

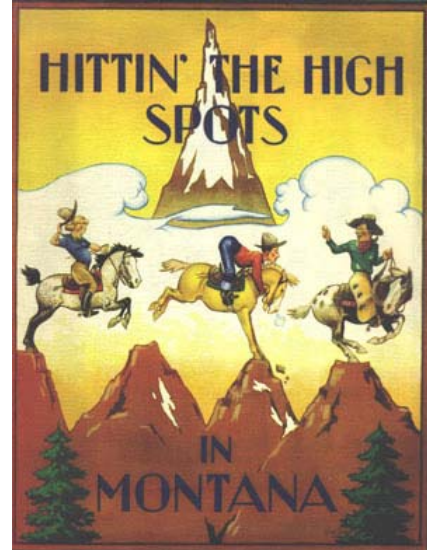
Whitefish, the doorway to spectacular Glacier National Park, Bob Marshall Wilderness, and Flathead Lake, will host the Thirty-first Annual Montana History Conference, October 28-30, 2004.

Aptly titled “Hittin’ the High Spots,” the conference will focus particularly on the history of northwest Montana, from the earliest residents to Euramericans who came to explore, trade, trap, work for the railroad, or enjoy the scenery.

Thursday workshops on collection management for museums as well as on Blackfeet and Kootenai culture will kick off the conference. Professor Harry Fritz’s keynote address, “Lost in Montana: The Truth about Lewis and Clark” and an evening reception will follow.

Friday and Saturday will feature panel discussions on topics ranging from the timber industry, winter recreation, northwest Montana writers, railroads, exploration, to native cultures. As always, the perennial favorite “Jerks in Montana History” will reveal amusing and interesting facts about lesser-known scoundrels of Montana’s past. Saturday afternoon tours of Apgar and Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park and of the Wurtz Homestead along the North Fork will conclude the conference.

All members of the public—educators, students, scholars, and history enthusiasts—are welcome to register for this three-day event. The conference, sponsored by the Montana Historical Society, with local assistance from the Stumptown Historical Society and the Whitefish Branch Library, will be held at Grouse Mountain Lodge. For more information about the program and to register, visit www.montanahistoricalsociety.org or call 406-444-2694.



Six Hundred People Attend 2004 Western Rendezvous of Art

Attendance figures for the Twenty-sixth Annual Western Rendezvous of Art, a four-day event sponsored by the City of Helena Civic Center Board and the Montana Historical Society, were up for the third consecutive year. Six hundred people attended the annual Quick Draw at the Sieben



Newman Myrah's *Dusty Day Herd*, recipient of the Society's Legacy Award

Ranch, while the Saturday evening banquet and art sale drew nearly 400 people. Many other people stopped at the Civic Center to view the show.

Sales of art at the Quick Draw event and the Saturday night auction totaled \$324,025. Expenses are still being determined, but the Society and the Civic Center are expected each to receive somewhere between \$30,000 and \$40,000 for their share of the proceeds. The Society uses its money for new art acquisitions for the museum, and the Civic Center for needed improvements to the historic building and interior.

Rendezvous Award Winners

- **John Scott People's Choice Award:** Greg Beecham, *Ice Floe Overlook*, and Blair Buswell, *Daddy Daughter Date*
- **Ben Stahl Artists Choice Award** for overall best collection of work at the Rendezvous (voted on by NWR members only): Paul Mullally
- **Awards of Excellence:** Huihan Liu, *Wandering*, Paul Mullally, *La Tarahumara*, Greg Beecham, *Ice Floe Overlook*, (also people's choice), Barry Eisenach, *Mandan*, and Gerald Fritzler, *Hitching Up the Team*
- **Heritage Award:** Don Prechtel, *The Captain's Horse*
- **Legacy Award** (chosen by the Montana Historical Society staff with the art piece added to the Society's permanent collection): Newman Myrah, *Dusty Day Herd*

Thursday Night at the Society Kicks Off for Fall/Winter

Thursday night at the Montana Historical Society kicked off for the fall and winter with a series of programs on Helena history, led by the Society's interpretive historian, Ellen Baumler. As part of that series, Baumler will offer the presentation, "Dead and Buried Twice," a history of Helena's early cemeteries on September 23 in the Montana Historical Society's Boo Auditorium. The following week brings the first meeting of the Society's book club, Pages in History, Reader Forum, at which Baumler will lead a discussion of *Girl From the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan*. That book, edited by Baumler and published by the Montana Historical Society Press, recently won recognition as a finalist for the 2004 Willa Literary Award. Pages in History will meet again on the last Thursday of October to discuss *Bound for Montana: Diaries from the Bozeman Trail*, edited by Susan Badger Doyle.

Other Thursday nights will bring diverse presentations on topics ranging from vigilante Henry Plummer to the 1964 flood on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, a gallery tour of the Russell gallery, and a workshop on doing oral history. All programs begin at 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. See calendar for details.

Northwest Digital Archives Up and Running

Sixteen archives in Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon have joined together to make guides to their collections, available on the Internet. Known as the Northwest Digital Archives, the project, which is partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will eventually include over 2,200 guides to archival collections in the Pacific Northwest. The Montana Historical Society currently has 173 guides available on the website; other participating Montana institutions include the K. Ross Toole Archives at the University of Montana. Both institutions will continue to add guides to the database.

This website will allow researchers to search names and topics in archives' collections throughout the region. Use of this resource will allow researchers to quickly and efficiently locate relevant materials around the region, instead of searching at each institution individually. The Northwest Digital Archives can be accessed at www.nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu. It can also be accessed through the Society's website, www.montanahistoricalsociety.org. To access through the Society's webpage, select "Online Catalogs" under the "Research Center" heading.

Nominations Sought For Biennial Historic Preservation Awards

For the last two decades, the State Historic Preservation Office has hosted biennial historic preservation awards to recognize the outstanding efforts of those who have worked to save historic properties across Montana. This special event draws together many unsung heroes who dedicate their energies to preserving the best of our collective past.

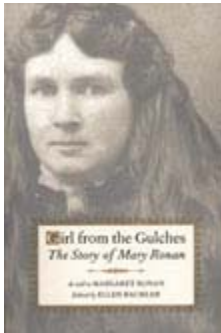
The deadline for nominations for the 2005 Preservation Awards is November 1, 2004. The awards will be presented on January 20, 2005, during the biennial Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony in Helena.

Individuals, organizations, and government agencies are all eligible to receive awards. Nominations will be considered for an award in one or more of the following categories: archaeology, rehabilitation and restoration, adaptive reuse, education/outreach/media, landscape preservation, individual lifetime achievement (exemplary service to historic preservation in Montana), and local preservationist. The State Historic Preservation Office staff will make final selection of award categories and recipients.

Anyone can submit a nomination. Nominations should be no longer than one double-spaced page and should include reasons the person, organization or agency deserves an award and documentation—for example, newspaper articles and letters of support—as appropriate. Photographs are required for best rehabilitation nominations. All nominations should be sent to the Preservation Award Nominations, State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620. Please limit nominations to one double-spaced page. For more information, contact Kate Hampton (406) 444-3647 or kahampton@state.mt.us.

History Happenings

The Montana Historical Society Press's *Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan*, edited by MHS Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumlér was a **finalist for the 2004 Willa Literary Award Winners in the category of Memoir/Essay**. Awarded annually for outstanding literature featuring women's stories set in the West, the Willa Literary Awards are chosen by a distinguished panel of twenty-one professional librarians. Ronan's detailed memoir recalls a girl's growing up on the Montana mining frontier, her ascent to young womanhood on a farm in southern California, her experiences as a student in a Los Angeles convent school, her return to Montana as a bride, and her life on the Flathead Indian Reservation as wife of the Indian agent. The book can be ordered for \$17.95 from the Museum Store by calling 1-800-243-9900 or via the web: <http://www.his.state.mt.us/pub/press/newbooks.asp>.



The Museum Program is currently involved in redesigning and upgrading an **exhibit devoted to Montana's chief executives** in the Governor's Office in the state capitol. At the suggestion of Governor Judy Martz—and with the assistance of volunteer researcher Ellen Bell of the Montana Capitol Restoration Foundation—new interpretive plaques detailing the personal and political highlights for each of Montana's twenty-one governors have been added to the display. In addition, mismatched frames and damaged mats will be replaced, and all portraits will be re-hung to improve the visual appeal of the exhibit. To learn more about Montana's governors visit the state capitol website at <http://www.montanacapitol.com/> and click on "Hall of Governors."

The Montana Historical Society, in cooperation with the Montana State Senate and the Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, are selling **limited edition bronze medallions** to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Sales of the medallions will help fund an sixteen-by-seven-foot bas-relief sculpture by renowned artist Eugene Daub, created expressly for the front wall of the State Capitol Senate Chamber. The medallion images of a buffalo and profiles of the explorers are taken from the lower border of the full sculpture. Only a thousand bronze medallions will be cast. The individually numbered bronze medallions cost \$80 plus \$15 shipping per medallion. Order forms are available on the Society's website: www.montanahistoricalsociety.org or please call 1-800-243-9900.



Limited edition bronze medallions, artist Eugene Daub

State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth participated in the BLM Public Lands Days (July 16-18, 2004) investigations at an **archaeological site on Red Bluff on Horse Prairie**. This site was recorded as a proto-historic battle site but new information collected during this effort may lead to changing that interpretation.



One of the buildings in the newly listed Great Falls Central Business Historic District

The National Park Service recently recognized the significance of the **Great Falls Central Business Historic District** by listing it in the National Register of Historic Places. Featuring an eclectic architectural mix, the district testifies to the rise of Great Falls as the commercial, political, social, and economic center of north central Montana. The Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Commission, State Historic Preservation Office, and contractor Candi Zion all worked to document the fascinating history of the district, developing the nomination that resulted in the district's National Register listing.

The Friends of the Society, Montana Historical Society's volunteer organization, elected Carole Herron as president of their board for 2004-2005. Pat Mandeville was elected vice president, Doris McMurray, secretary; Barbara Hamburg, treasurer; Esther Fuehrer, library and courtesy; Mary Gail Carmony and Patti Shearer, Muse co-chairs; and Evelyn Nelson as the Original Governor Mansion coordinator. Although the organization officially recesses for the summer, individual Friends were busy. Thirteen volunteers assisted the education office with children's activities during summer "Under the Tent" activity days and forty-two volunteers donated approximately three hundred hours to make sure the Western Rendezvous of Art functioned smoothly and efficiently. To become a volunteer or learn more about the Friends, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553 or dsullivan@state.mt.us.

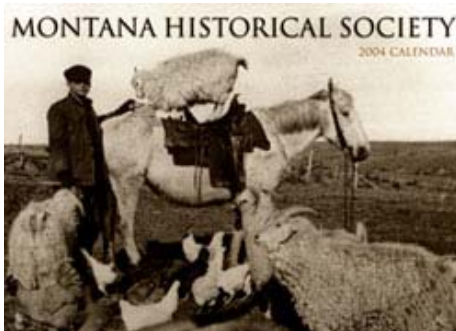
Jody Brandt has been hired as the Centralized Business Manager for the Montana Historical Society. Most recently Brandt has served as budget analyst for the Montana Department of Revenue, but was first hired by state government in 1986 by the Legislative Audit Division. She received her bachelors degree in accounting from Carroll College and is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Brandt takes the place of longtime Society employee **Sharon McCabe**, who retired in August. McCabe, who worked at the Society for sixteen years, oversaw the Society's budget and business office and served one year as acting director.

A Tenderfoot in Montana: Reminiscences of the Gold Rush, the Vigilantes, and the Birth of Montana Territory, by Francis M. Thompson and edited by Kenneth N. Owens, is now available from the Montana Historical Society Press. Thompson's lively memoir details his experiences in the upper Missouri country at the beginnings of the Montana gold rush. A self-styled tenderfoot, Thompson recalls his days on the mining frontier with clarity and insight, making him an unmatched eyewitness for Montana's formative years. The book can be ordered for \$14.95 by calling 1-800-243-9900 or via the web:

<http://www.his.state.mt.us/pub/press/newbooks.asp>.



The **Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board** will meet in Philipsburg on September 25-26, 2004. The meeting will be held in the newly renovated Broadway Hotel. National Register of Historic Places nominations for four Montana properties will be considered: Morgan-Case homestead, on Rock Creek; Burgess Garage in Lambert; the Gilpatrick-Root House in Helena; and the Hepburn Place in the Paradise Valley. Please contact Kate Hampton at kahampton@state.mt.us or 406-444-3647 if you have any questions.



Perfect as a stocking stuffer, the **2005 Montana Historical Society calendar** is now available. It features over a dozen food-related historical photographs from the Society's Photograph Archives as well as intriguing recipes from the Library's Historic Montana Community Cookbook Collection. Recipes include ones for dandelion wine, venison steak, sweet potato pie, coffee fudge, mint punch, and serviceberry cakes. Calendars are on sale for \$8.50 on local newsstands and through the Museum Store: 800-243-9900 or www.montanahistoricalsociety.org. Or become a MHS member and receive your free calendar in the mail.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office has partnered with Montana Preservation Alliance, Headwaters RC&D and other state and local organizations to host **two workshops on the Basics of Heritage Areas**. The workshops will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on September 23, 2004, at the Virginia City Community Gym in Virginia City and on September 24, 2004, at the historic Silver Bow Center, 125 West Granite Street. The program will focus on ways to turn historic places into economic engines that can both build and preserve the community. Registration information can be found on the web at <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>. For more information, contact Chere Jiusto at MPA, 406-457-2822 or preservemt@gwest.net.

The **winter issue** of Montana's favorite history magazine, **Montana The Magazine of Western History**, will feature articles on the Fort Union fur-trading Deschamps family; the "Queen of Colorado City Tenderloin," Laura Bell Daniels; specimen collecting in Yellowstone National Park; the creation of the town of Fort Peck; the discovery of Pumpelly Glacier in Glacier National Park; and the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Income Tax Credit Program. Subscribe on-line, www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/default.asp, or by calling 1-800-243-9900.

Teachers from **Thompson Falls, Dillon, Brady, Fairfield, Centerville, Great Falls Central,** and **St. Labre** joined the Montana Heritage Project for the 2004-2005 school year as project affiliates. They will tackle smaller, more focused projects as a way of becoming acquainted with project goals and methods.

State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler, state archaeologist Stan Wilmoth, and state records manager Damon Murdo inspected a number of fascinating **archaeological sites on the Sun River Ranch** in July with archaeological students from Stanford University. The intricate and extensive rock alignments are believed to be part of a complex hunting system involving driving animals (antelope and bison) into a number of kill zones. PBS/NOVA cinematographers conducted interviews with SHPO staff on site for a possible TV production.

The **Tenth Annual Montana Heritage Project Summer Institute** was held June 20-26, 2004, in White Sulphur Springs and Harlowton. Fifteen demonstration site teachers had the opportunity to hone their skills in using historic documents and buildings, prehistoric sites, museums, and GPS and GIS technologies as research sources and tools. They enjoyed the hospitality of area ranches, the Duncan Hutterite Colony, and businesses, individuals, and organizations in both communities. They wrestled with the question of what residents understood success to be in 1910 and what it is now thought to be.

Calendar

All of the programs are free, open to the public, and will be held at the Montana Historical Society unless otherwise noted.

September 21, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: **Archaeology Day!** Join volunteer advocationalists and professional archaeologists on the Society lawn for a demonstration of flint knapping and use of the atlatl. Outside activities are open to the public. In addition, elementary students and their teachers can tour the Museum at no charge during the event.

September 23, 6:30 p.m.: **Dead and Buried Twice.** Historian Ellen Baumler will talk about Helena's historic cemeteries, from Boot Hill to China Row, and why some pioneers were buried, disinterred, and buried again, sometimes more than once!

September 30, 6:30 p.m.: **Pages in History, Reader Forum:** *Girl From the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan.* The Society's book club kicks off with this award-winning book, edited by Ellen Baumler, who will serve as the discussion's facilitator.

October 7, 6:30 p.m.: **Decent and Orderly Lynching.** CNN commentator Rick Allen talks about his new book on Montana vigilantes and about why so many people have struggled over the question of Henry Plummer's guilt or innocence.

October 7, 7:30 p.m.: **Old Ironsides Across the Nation.** Captain Lewin Wright of the USS *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world, will talk about the 206-year history of the undefeated frigate. Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol.

October 14, 6:30 p.m.: **Telling Tales.** Montana Historical Society Oral Historian Jodie Foley leads a workshop on doing oral history: how to research, conduct interviews, and what questions to ask to add richness to the final product.

October 23, 12:00-2:00 p.m.: **Montana Folks.** Authors Durrae and John Johanek will be on hand at a celebration of their new book on interesting Montanans. The reception and booksigning will include activities for the whole family.

October 28, 6:30 p.m.: **Pages in History, Reader Forum.** *Diaries from the Bozeman Trail*, edited by Susan Badger Doyle. Archivist Ellie Arguimbau will facilitate the discussion (Pages in History, Reader Forum, will resume again in January)

November 4, 6:30 p.m.: **Flood!** Montana experienced its worst flood in history in 1964. Aaron Parrot, from the University of Great Falls, will discuss how the flood affected the state, particularly the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

November 18, 6:30 p.m.: **Russell Gallery Tour.** Join us for a tour of the work of Montana's famous cowboy artist, Charlie Russell.

December 2, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: **History for the Holidays.** Watch for specials throughout the store for your last minute Christmas shopping.

December 5, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: **Hometown Helena Memories.** Visit the Original Governor's Mansion along with four other homes decorated for the holidays. Tickets will be available at the Montana Historical Society or by calling 444-3695.

December 5, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: **Holiday Open House.** Join us at the Montana Historical Society for our annual Open House to celebrate the holidays.

December 9, 16, 23, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: **History for the Holidays.** Join us at the gift shop and let us help you get those last-minute gifts for the history buffs on your list. Watch for specials.

December 30, 6:30 p.m.: **Gallery Tour.** Join us for a special tour of one of our five galleries at Montana's Museum.

Hours

Montana's Museum

Through September 30

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays

October 1 through Memorial Day

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. Museum may have additional hours during the legislative session.

Museum Admission Fee

\$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$12.00 per family

Museum Store

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. No admission fee.

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Library, archives, and photo archives may have additional hours during the legislative session.

Capitol Guided Tours

Through September 30

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour. Last tour begins at 2:00 p.m.
Sundays, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 3:00 p.m. Closed holidays.

October 1 through December 31

Saturdays only, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour.
Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Through September 30

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour. Last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays.

October 1 through April 30

Saturday only, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour.

OGM Admission Fee

\$4.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$10.00 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.